

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The object of the non-official body is to go and see that the institution is being worked well and the institution is looked after well. If the non-officials will not go, even then the business will be carried on just as well.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—If the non officials will not go, then another body might as well be appointed to do it. Otherwise the object of the appointment fails.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The reason why no action was taken was, as I stated, because the proposed transfer of the Asylum was in the air, and we thought that a new body of official and non-official visitors would be then appointed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—But that will not save the lepers here.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—What are we to do?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—You must see that others are appointed.

President.—What Mr. Mathew suggests is, the non-official visitors are appointed for a specific purpose; now we find that purpose is not satisfied by the present body; the only course is to remove them and appoint a new body of non-officials.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It was not so done simply because of this idea of transferring the institution to Adur, and since it is opened at a new centre, the non-official body for this Asylum will not be found convenient. So if the Asylum is transferred to Adur, then we will consider about the appointment of a new body for the Adur Leper Asylum. That is all.

Small-pox at Irinjalakkuda.

66. Mr. A. L. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to answer the followiag:—1. Whether the Government are aware of the prevalence of small-pox of a virulent type throughout the town of Irinjalakkuda;

2. if so, what steps the Government have taken for the eradication of the contagion from the said town;

3. whether they have provided any contagious disease shed in the town for the segregation of destitute patients;

4. whether they will be pleased to state the number of attacks and deaths in the town on account of small-pox during the past three months;

5. whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer paid any visit to the town during the above period;

6. if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what steps he has taken in the matter of checking the prevalence of the disease?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—1. Yes, not more virulent than in other parts of the State where the disease prevailed.

2. A campaign of vaccination was instituted in the town on a vigorous scale.

3. There is an isolated contagious disease ward attached to the local hospital and destitute small-pox patients are admitted there.

4. Attacks 146 and deaths 53.

5. Yes, 4 visits to the town during the period.

6. The arrangements were made to concentrate vaccination in the town. Three vaccinators were engaged in carrying on the work. The Division Sanitary Inspector and the local Medical Officer were also supplied with lymph to carry on an extensive campaign of vaccination. Lymph for about 5,000 cases was supplied during the period but only about 2,000 persons could be vaccinated on account of opposition of the people to vaccination.

Executive line of the Excise Department.

67. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. what are the standards for promotion in the executive line of the Excise Department;

2. whether it is the practice to promote the clerks of the Head Office as Excise Inspectors and if so, what is their special qualification to get into the field service?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—1. Efficiency and fitness.

2. Yes. do.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The answer given is 'Efficiency and fitness'. May I know whether you have any tests so as to find out the standard of efficiency and fitness. That is a very big term, 'efficiency and fitness'. May I know whether any test is actually applied when a new man is recruited in the Executive Department?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Service, personal knowledge to the Head of the Department, experience gained by their working in the place, all these things.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is the experience in the office and all that the only test to find out efficiency?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So, no test is applied?

Mr. T. V. Ramalinga Ayyar.—With his experience, the presumption is that he will do well.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is there any test?